Value of Rupee

2586. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of rupee is continuously falling in the domestic as well as international markets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the value of rupee assessed at the end of 1980-81 and 1990-91 on the basis of 1970 as base year; and

(d) what was the exchange value of rupee in the international market at the end of 1970-71. 1980-81 and 1990-91 in comparison to major currencies of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d): Internal value of Indian Rupee, measured as a reciprocal of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (Base 1970-100) was 44 paise at the end of 1980-81 and 19 paise at the end of 1990-91 respectively. The external value of the Indian rupee vis-a-vis leading currencies of the world as at the end of 1970-71, 1980-81 and 1990-91 was as indicated in the table below. The decline in the internal value of the rupee reflects the secutar rise in the level of consumer prices. In a regime of floating exchange rate where the exchange value of the rupee is linked to a basket of currencies, frequent adjustments in the exchange value vis-a-vis other currencies is a normal phenomenon.

	Rupees per unit of foreign currency (end March)		
Currency	*1970-71*	*1980-81*	*1990-91*
Us Dollar	7.502	8.190	19.620
Pound Sterling	18.132	18.379	34.051
Deutche Mark	2.067	3.897	11.427
Yen	0.021	0.039	00.139
French Frenc	1.361	1.652	3.373

Opening of Branches of Indian Banks Abroad

2587. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the branch licensing policy of Banks;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Banks are proposed to be permitted to open bank branches outside the country especially in Gulf countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India have reported that there is no proposal, at

present, to amend branch licensing policy in regard to opening of branches of Indian banks abroad.

(d) There are 11 branches of public sector banks in Gulf countries. In addition, there are 7 exchange houses managed by public sector banks in these countries. The existing net-work in Gulf countries is considered adequate.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Question

2589. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the powers vested in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to regulate the functioning of the stock exchanges;

(b) the criteria/guidelines adopted by the SEBI in granting authorisation and allocation of categories, if any, to the merchant bankers;

(c) the details of the merchant bankers with their categories authorised by the SEBI so far to undertake management of capital issues and related activities;

(d) whether the SEBI has any plans to oregional offices in the near future;

(e) if so, the places where such offices are likely to be opened; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) (a) SEBI deals with matters relating to development and regulation of *securities market and investors' protection.* Accordingly, SEBI regulates the functioning of Stock Exchanges through inter alia, regular inspections and scrutiny of daily reports from Stock Exchanges.

(b) The criterial for authorisation of merchant bankers by SEBI include, inter alia, factors such as professional competence, adequacy of infrastructure and personnel, capital adequacy and past record and experience. Categorisation of merchant bankers is done on the basis of networth.

(c) SEBI has so far authorised 86 merchant bankers, of which 78 are in category I and 4 each in categories II and III.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Regional offices of SEBI are not considered necessary at present.

Tea Exports to UK

2590. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI:
SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: (a) whether the tea exports to United Kingdom have shown a downward trend during the current year:

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b): No, Sir. Export of tea to the U.K. during April-October, 1991 were 21.40 M. Kgs. at a value of Rs. 120.55 crores (Prov.) as compared to 20.75 M. Kgs. at a value of Rs. 105.82 crore (Prov.) during the corresponding period of previous year.